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brusquely original outcropping of this stream of instinctive song among the cowboys. The play party must be recognized as part of this movement and games should be carefully and promptly noted down in all the states, accumulating evidence fully and widely so that just as the meteorologist charts and interprets the notations of the air currents, the historian and the scholar of folklore may trace the paths and significance of these popular winds that blow where they list through the lives of the generations and the nations.

WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

*Formation of the state of Oklahoma (1803-1906).* By Roy Gittinger, Ph.D., professor of English history and dean of undergraduates, University of Oklahoma. (Berkeley: University of California press, 1917. 256 p. \$2.00)

Students of western history will be interested in this painstaking study of the origin and development of the commonwealth of Oklahoma. The author has drawn together, chiefly from government documents, the materials which tell the story of this territory from the time in 1803 when it first became a part of the United States to the day in November, 1907, when its admission to the union was finally proclaimed. The narrative involves much besides merely local history. The whole Indian policy of the government, the various agitations for transcontinental railways, the chronic demand of the west for land and still more land, and its equally chronic disregard of restrictive laws,—these, and similar subjects, receive constant consideration.

The “dominant characteristic in the formation of Oklahoma,” Mr. Gittinger tells us, “was the removal of the Indians from their lands east of the Mississippi to the country set apart for them on the Western border” (p. 3). The first two chapters of the book are therefore devoted to a description of the treaties of removal, and of the location of the tribes in their new homes. The “Indian territory” thus created was much larger than the present state of Oklahoma, including the district later organized as the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. “No political communities,” President Jackson told congress in December, 1835, “can be formed in that extensive region, except those which are established by the Indians themselves or by the United States for them with their concurrence” (p. 21).

The Kansas-Nebraska bill, as the first definite break in this policy, is the subject of the third chapter. Had the author chosen to avoid a discussion of the origins of this national squabble he could hardly have merited censure. He is to be congratulated, however, upon the very satisfactory way in which he has fused together into one logical

account the various more or less conflicting theories regarding the beginnings of Kansas and Nebraska that have been advanced from time to time. He is generous, and properly so, we think, in his estimate of the motives of Stephen A. Douglas. Probably, as the author insists, Douglas never did believe that his bill would result in the erection of a new slave state. And there is reason also for the contention that he could not have foreseen "either the excitement in the North aroused by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise or the sectional hostility engendered by the struggle in Kansas" (pp. 40, 41 f. n.).

That what is now Oklahoma was not organized as a territory along with Kansas and Nebraska, Mr. Gittinger attributes in part to the special guarantees against such action previously given to the Five Civilized Tribes, but fundamentally to the relative unimportance of the matter to the states of the south. Moreover, "many people in the far South," he thinks, "still wished to keep the south-central route to the Pacific blocked so that the southernmost route might command wider support" (p. 46). Even so, a determined effort was made between 1854 and 1860 to open the Indian country, and by the latter date sentiment in the south so strongly favored such a disposition of the matter that organization probably could not have been delayed longer than ten years had not the civil war intervened (p. 54).

Chapters five and six are devoted to the problems which the civil war and reconstruction period brought to the Indian territory. It is clear from this account that the southern Indians were practically forced to recognize the authority of the confederacy because they were abandoned by the northern government. Nevertheless, the United States, when the war was over, "made this recognition a pretext for disregarding old agreements" (p. 56). The further concentration of the Indian tribes in what is now Oklahoma speedily took place, the policy of handling Indian questions by treaty was definitely abandoned, while numerous efforts to organize the Indian country into a territory betrayed the desire to pave the way for white settlement. Following this came the activity of "the boomers," who eventually by their lawlessness and threats forced the government to purchase from the Indians "their surplus lands," and to open them for settlement. Chapters ten and eleven deal with the occupation by white settlers of Oklahoma territory and the restricted Indian territory, respectively, and the final chapter reviews the struggle for an ultimate attainment of statehood. Little attention is paid to the constitutional convention and its product inasmuch as the convention records are not yet available.

The book is distinctly a scholarly production. It is elaborately footnoted, contains five excellent maps, nine short appendices, a complete

bibliography (which would be better if the articles mentioned were evaluated), and a lengthy index. Fortunately the author has no difficulty in saying what he means in the fewest possible words: otherwise, the patience of the reader would soon be exhausted in wading through the overwhelming mass of detail which such a work necessarily involves.

JOHN D. HICKS

*History of the Pacific northwest.* By Joseph Schafer, Ph.D., head of the department of history, University of Oregon. (New York: Macmillan company, 1918. 323 p. \$2.25 net)

Mr. Schafer enjoys the reputation of being an accurate and industrious historian. This fruit of his pen gives evidence of those qualities. The first edition appeared in 1905 after he had spent in Oregon about five busy years. In preparing the first manuscript he traveled extensively in the large area treated and sought to avail himself of all attainable sources. That edition was the first publication on the subject in a single and at the same time a comprehensive and dependable volume.

He was probably the first to discover that his book lacked certain elements of proportion. He was given an opportunity to study other important and, in part, unused sources in the public record office, London. The new information caused a revision of the work into this present edition.

The romantic story of the periods of discovery and exploration is retained but shortened to permit more stress on the economic and industrial development. Another improvement in perspective has resulted from the author's researches in the British archives in his treatment of the diplomacy involved in the "Oregon question." This is the best portion of the excellent book. After that is said it may seem ungrateful to call attention to an omission. While discussing with admirable illumination the American claims of Russia and the treaties which that nation signed with the United States and Great Britain in 1824 and 1825, fixing the famous boundary of "Fifty-four, forty," the author overlooks the opportunity of linking Oregon with national history by even a mention of the "no further colonization in America" portion of the Monroe doctrine.

The widely argued case of the missionary, Marcus Whitman, is handled in a just and sane manner. The hero is still there though the so-called "saving of Oregon" is properly divided among the many others who wrought on that important consummation before, during, and after Whitman's terrible ride in the winter of 1842-1843. For one who takes this stand on the controverted question it is refreshing to read this